

downcomers are so positioned on the tray that bubble area is present at both of the longer sides, wherein the cross-sectional area at the lower end of the downcomer is less than 40% of the cross-sectional area of the upper end of the downcomer at tray level.

IN THE DRAWINGS

Drawings have been included with this Response.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

On page 3, above line 9 please insert:

"BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Fig. 1 shows a side view of an embodiment of two trays of the invention in a column.

Fig. 2 shows a top view of the lower tray of **Fig. 1**.

Fig. 3 shows a side view of an embodiment of two trays of the invention in a column.

Fig. 4 shows a top view of the lower tray of **Fig. 3**."

On page 4, above line 4, please insert:

"Referring now to the Figures, **Fig. 1** shows a side view of an embodiment of two trays of the invention in a column **20**. Gas-liquid trays **1** are shown as arranged in a column **20**. Rectangular downcomers **5** are arranged along a diametrical line across the tray such that the ends of the downcomers in each tray section meet this line in an alternating or staggered fashion. The double lines indicate downcomers in the foreground, while those with single lines represent those in the background. **Fig. 1** shows the upper end **8** of the downcomers, the lower end **9**, the downcomer opening at tray level **13**, the downcomer walls **11**, and the liquid discharge opening **15**. Additionally a weir **22** is shown at the boundary of the bubble area **3** and the downcomer opening **13**. **Fig. 2** shows a top view of the lower tray of **Fig. 1**. From this figure, it can be seen that bubble area **3** is present on both of the longer sides of the downcomer **5**. **Figs. 3** and **4** show an alternate arrangement in a column **120** in which each rectangular downcomer **105** extends across the entire tray **101**. The figure shows the downcomer features: upper end **108**, lower end **109**, wall **111**, opening at tray level **113**, liquid discharge opening **115**, and weir **122** at the boundary **106** of the downcomer **105** and the bubble area **103**."